

# Official punches on the 1929-1943 Pegasus airmails of Uruguay

By Robert J. Schwerdt (#505-L)

Official stamps can take several forms: they may have the word *official* in the design, they may be overprinted, they may be perfined (we are all familiar with the G.N pattern of Venezuela), or they may be hole-punched.

Uruguay's official punches are the concern of this article. In addition to overprinting regular postal issues for official use, Uruguay issued a set of seven stamps in 1911 with *OFICIAL* as part of the design and then continued to overprint regular postal issues until 1928.

The Scott catalog has two references regarding punched officials.

- Most of the used official stamps of 1901-1928 were punched with holes of various shapes in addition to receiving postal cancellations.
- After 1928, official stamps were discontinued and stamps of many issues were punched for use by officials.

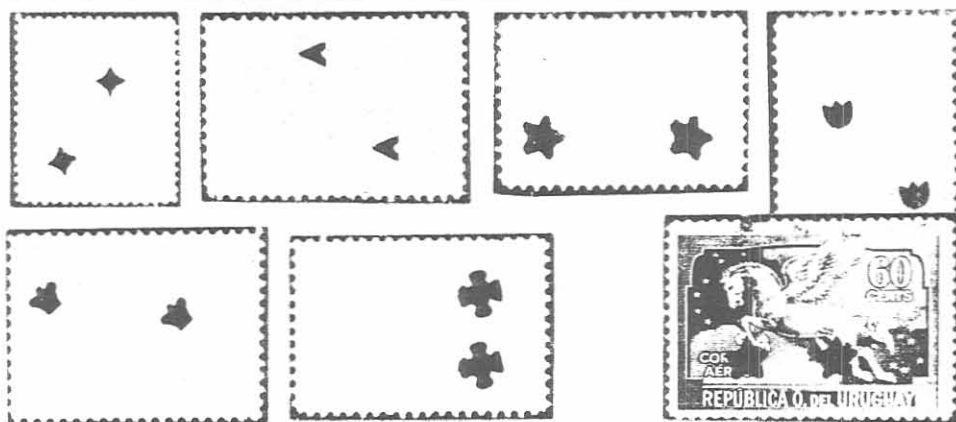
Some interesting observations can be made about the punches.

My only used example on piece shows that the hole punch was made before the stamp was affixed. I also have a mint block with punched holes.

Generally one punch hole was used on postal issues and two punch holes were used on airmail stamps. An exception to this is that my two copies of the 2c of the 1930 peace design each have two holes. All my other examples of postal issues show only one hole. All my examples of official issues have double punches.

Another anomaly concerns the newspaper stamps. All 1922 issues that I have seen have two holes, yet all my copies of the 1924 and 1926 issues are single punched.

My main reason for writing about these punches is the 1929-



Uruguay's official punches took several forms, from top left, diamonds, arrows, stars, tulips, crowns, and clubs. At lower right is one of the Pegasus airmails with an official punch.

1943 Pegasus airmails (Scott C27-C60A).

This set gets my vote for being one of the most attractive ever issued. Sanabria Air Post Catalog indicates that the 14 values of this set were punched for official use—some in very limited numbers—with two stars or two clubs (quatrefoils). Only 50 copies of the 30c value (Scott C41) but more than 7,000 copies of the \$1 value (Scott C52) were punched.

I have nine cancelled values of the stamps and naturally I would like to fill in the five missing items.

More importantly I would like

to learn if other members have examples of these airmail punches and on which Scott numbers they are found.

I have never seen a commercial perfin on any of the Pegasus set. Does anyone have an example? Another concern is the authenticity of the punched airmails. The holes are such that counterfeiting would not be hard to do.

If you have additional information to share, please contact me at 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. I'll keep everyone informed through the *Bulletin*.